

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E. O. 11652: ADS DECLAS 4-30-73

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBAECT SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT FOR 1972

1. FOLLOWING: IS FULL TEXT OF PANAMA SECTION OF THE SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT, WHICH WILL BE PUBLICLY RELEASED APRIL 19. THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE DECLASSIFIED WHEN REPORT IS RELEASED.

2. QUOTE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY, TO REPLACE THE TREATY OF 1903, CONTINUED DURING 1972 ALTHOUGH LITTLE PROGRESS THUS FAR HAS BEEN MADE.

3. AT THE UNITED NATIONS, PANAMA CAMPAIGNED HARD DURING THE YEAR FOR A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN PANAMA CITY. PANAMA BECAME A ROTATING MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 1972. THE UNITED STATES EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS WHETHER THERE WAS SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A MEETING AND STRESSED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE USED IN THE CONTEXT OF U. S.- PANAMANIAN ISSUES.

4. THE ATTENTION OF THE PANAMANIAN LEADERSHIP WAS PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON A MAJOR POLITICAL RESTRUCTURING INVOLVING
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PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

5. ON MAY 29 THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER THE PANAMA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY, 90 PERCENT OWNED BY BOISE CASCADE CORPORATION. THE ACTION CAME AFTER A BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW SERVICE CONTRACT. DURING DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH FOLLOWED, THE U. S. EMBASSY IN PANAMA PROVIDED SENTATIVE OF ALL THE IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS AND REGIONAL POLITICAL GROUPS AND APPEARS TO HAVE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC SUPPORT. LEBANON'S PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY REGISTERED MARKED IMPROVEMENTS IN 1972 IN THE MAJOR SECTORS OF TOURISM, BANKING, AND INDUSTRY. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUED AS ONE OF LEBANON'S TOP SUPPLIERS, WITH US EXPORTS RISING TO 85.9 MILLION DOLS IN 1971 (LATEST ACCURATE FIGURES) AS COMPARED TO 68 MILLION DOLS IN 1970. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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